

VZCZCXR09235

OO RUEHAG RUEHAO RUEHAP RUEHAST RUEHAT RUEHBC RUEHBI RUEHBL RUEHBZ
RUEHCD RUEHCHI RUEHCI RUEHCN RUEHDA RUEHDBU RUEHDE RUEHDF RUEHDH
RUEHDT RUEHDU RUEHED RUEHEL RUEHFK RUEHFL RUEHGA RUEHGD RUEHGH RUEHGI
RUEHGR RUEHHA RUEHHM RUEHHO RUEHHT RUEHIHL RUEHIK RUEHJO RUEHJS RUEHKN
RUEHKR RUEHKSO RUEHKUK RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHLZ RUEHMA
RUEHMC RUEHMJ RUEHMR RUEHMRE RUEHMT RUEHNAG RUEHNEH RUEHNG RUEHNH
RUEHNL RUEHNP RUEHNZ RUEHPA RUEHPB RUEHPOD RUEHPT RUEHPW RUEHQU
RUEHRD RUEHRG RUEHRN RUEHROV RUEHRS RUEHSK RUEHTM RUEHTRO RUEHVC
RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHC #1680 1661907
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 151845Z JUN 09
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHFSI/DIR FSINFATC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEPH/CDP ATLANTA IMMEDIATE 7599
RUCPDOC/ALL USDOC DISTDIR COLLECTIVE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMC SUU/CDRAMC FT BELVOIR VA//AMCMI-SS// IMMEDIATE
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XXOXXI// IMMEDIATE
RHMC SUU/HQ AFOSI DOQ ANDREWS AFB MD//IVOA// IMMEDIATE
RHMC SUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC//ACI-400// IMMEDIATE
RHMC SUU/COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD//AIR1031B// IMMEDIATE
RHMFIU/NRC WASHINGTON DC//INFOSEC// IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-JIT// IMMEDIATE
RUCPCIM/CIM NTDB WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMC SUU/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMFIU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 7849
RUEHTN/AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE 7724
INFO RUESBKC/ATO ASIA IMMEDIATE 1880

UNCLAS STATE 061680

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CASC ASEC GB

SUBJECT: TRAVEL ALERT: GABON

¶1. The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens to the risks of travel to Gabon following the death of Gabonese President El-Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba on June 8, 2009 in Spain. The president's remains were returned to Gabon on June 11, with state and private funerals scheduled to occur through Thursday, June 18. A 30-day period of mourning began on June 8. An interim head of state was sworn in and, under Gabon's constitution, must organize elections within 45 days. This Travel Alert expires on July 25, 2009.

¶2. While the U.S. Embassy expects the funeral week, the national mourning period, and the ensuing presidential election to develop peacefully and in an orderly fashion, American citizens should be aware that even peaceful gatherings and demonstrations can turn violent unexpectedly. Significant traffic congestion, shortages in hotel lodgings, and large crowds throughout the country, particularly in Libreville, are likely to inconvenience travelers.

¶3. The Department of State discourages non-essential travel to Gabon on the part of U.S. Government officials and U.S. citizens just before or immediately after the state funeral.

¶4. American citizens in Gabon should monitor their own security situations at all times, and avoid large public gatherings, protests, and demonstrations. American citizens are encouraged to report unusual events or activities to the U.S. Embassy.

¶5. Updated information on travel and security in Gabon may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. Additional details can be found

in the Department of State's Country Specific Information for Gabon and the Worldwide Caution, which are available on the Department's Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

¶6. The Embassy is located in Centre Ville on the Boulevard du Bord de Mer, and may be reached at 76-20-03/04 during business hours. In case of emergency, a 24-hour duty officer may be reached after hours at 07-38-01-¶71.

¶7. Minimize considered.
CLINTON